Somewhere in Italy

Jan 6, 1944

Bryant Service Club:

Have just received your letter which, you may be sure, was very welcome. Very interesting news, especially that almost the missing boys, particularly Aquino whom I remember very well although it seems so long ago.

It must have been a rather perplexing situation on opening day; finding myself so greatly outnumbered, though, should have its merits.

Out here, things move along in the same routine. Occasionally air raids and such do disturb us, but that's only one of the many things to put up with.

Recently the weather has turned to the cold, even some
snow to remind us of lack of home. Rain was our constant "friend" for quite a while, but now things are drying up very fast.

An interesting fact, however, is the way the women work. While the men of the house (men) sit beside the fire, the women do all the heavy work. They carry the wood, build fires, mix cement and carry it. They carry everything balanced on their heads; it's very common to see them prancing about with 60 to 100 lbs. on their heads.

As for their dress, the people wear varied costumes. Thick wool cap, sof and the inevitable sandal which is prominent throughout the country. Just a shoe
carved out of a log to fit the foot, then to this they add a couple steps to hold them on. The whole country might be called very primitive, for tools and working instruments everything dates back to about the 17th century; at least it seems so to us.

The larger cities are much more modern in every way. In Naples, where I had the opportunity to visit, they even run soda fountains. Seeing all these ancient places really is interesting Things that seemed so remote--Pompeii, Vesuvius, etc.--just like entering another world very removed from our normal existence.

The holidays were rather
quietly celebrated. Naturally, all the result of available, or rather the lack of available material, to produce a more noisy atmosphere. The New Year was welcomed in with a distinct bang, the roar of 155’s. Very fitting end to a progressive year.

Your package has not as yet been received, but you may be sure that it will be accorded a very hearty welcome, as well as the many thanks for all you and the Service Club are doing for all the boys.

For myself, everything is as well as could be expected. Enjoyed a week’s stay at the hospital (flu). I say enjoyed because that was about the first opportunity we
had of talking to an American girl once more. Since then, though, we have been getting "good" donuts from Red Cross girls, and in that way we manage to keep some sort of contact with civilization.

This chatter must stop with the evening light, so with many thanks for your letter and a note to late repetition of same, I'll sign off.

Sincerely

[Signature]

P.S. Keep up the good work. These letters are great.

P.S. I'm enclosing a few States coins for anyone who is interested.